

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 21, 1873.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on Pensions.

AN ACT

To amend section six of the act of July four, eighteen hundred and sixty-four.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That section six of said act, approved July four, eighteen
4 hundred and sixty-four, be, and the same is hereby, amended
5 so as to read as follows : “ That no pension-claim now on file,
6 unless prosecuted to a successful issue within three years from
7 the passage of this act, and no claim hereafter filed not thus
8 prosecuted to a successful issue within five years from the
9 date of such filing, shall be admitted without record evidence
10 from the War Department to establish the fact that the
11 claimant was a soldier in the service of the United States at
12 the time the alleged wound was received or the alleged dis-
13 ability was incurred for which a pension is claimed. The
14 testimony of commissioned officers, enlisted men, and family
15 or attending physicians shall be received in all cases where

16 the evidence of medical treatment in the Army is wanting,
17 and the absence of such medical evidence is reasonably ac-
18 counted for, or where such medical evidence is imperfect or
19 defective ; and in every case in which a pension shall have
20 been filed more than three years after the discharge or decease
21 of the party on whose account claim is made, the pension, if
22 allowed, shall commence from the date of filing the last
23 paper in said case by the party in the case prosecuting the
24 same."

Passed the House of Representatives February 19, 1873.

Attest : EDWARD McPHERSON, *Clerk.*